



Philip Archer/Photo intern

Former Democratic vice presidential nominee Geraldine Ferraro was the keynote speaker July 20 at the 1991 Convention Days, which commemorates the 1848 women's right convention held in Seneca Falls. An abortion advocate, Ferraro was the target of pro-life demonstrators at the event.

Activists demonstrate during Ferraro speech

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

SENECA FALLS — Claiming that early feminists opposed abortion, pro-life activists again took part in Convention Days here on July 20.

Held annually, the event commemorates the inaugural women's rights convention held in Seneca Falls in 1848. This year's activities, which focused on the political activity of women, included a talk on 19th century women's reform movements by Dr. Suzanne Schnittman, a women's study professor and a member of the advisory board of Feminists for Life of Western New York.

In addition, approximately 50 members of Feminists for Life and pro-life activists took part in the Convention Days Parade on Saturday evening.

An estimated 15-20 pro-life activists also demonstrated outside the Seneca Falls Historical Society Museum during the keynote speech given by Democratic vice presi-

dential candidate Geraldine Ferraro. Ferraro, who in 1984 became the first woman to run on a major party ticket, served in the House of Representatives from 1979-85. Her speech focused on women in politics.

A Catholic, Ferraro has repeatedly said she believes in a woman's right to choose abortion. During the question-and-answer session following her speech, she noted that she personally would not have an abortion, although the decision should be left to the individual.

Mike McMahon, co-chairman of the Geneva-area Right-to-Life group, said it was important for pro-life forces to take part in Convention Days to keep the issue in the public eye and to remind people that the early feminist movement was largely anti-abortion.

"Historically speaking, in the women's rights movement, abortion was a big issue," McMahon said. "The majority of the thinking of the early feminists was that baby killing was murder."

McMahon pointed out that the banner used by the Feminists for Life in this year's parade quoted early women's rights leader Susan B. Anthony as calling abortion "child murder."

In a telephone interview with the *Catholic Courier* before her speech at Eastman Hall in Seneca Falls, Schnittman noted that it would be difficult to talk about early feminist reform movements without mentioning abortion. Early feminists linked together all justice issues — including abortion.

"The earliest women's rights advocates clearly understood the role of individual and community rights, compared to contemporary feminists who today stress individual rights above community rights," Schnittman observed.

As part of her talk, Schnittman said she would link together "the various issues that concern us today and that concerned them in the 19th century."

McMahon said pro-life activists must take active roles in such events as Convention Days to change pro-choice policies in the United States.

"We can't be outside of and separate from the processes that go on in our society," McMahon concluded. "You have to change things from within."

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Rochester cyclists return home after fundraising trek for shelter

ROCHESTER — Two area cyclists returned home last week after raising more than \$4,000 for the Francis Hospitality Center while biking from San Francisco to Rochester.

Brian Mack and Ed Mangan, both graduates of McQuaid Jesuit High School, traveled 3,076 miles from June 8 to July 16 to support the Francis Center, a year-round, 30-bed, 24-hour shelter run by the Catholic Family Center.

The center, which opened June 6, already houses 21 men, noted Mary McGuire, department director of homeless and housing services at the CFC.

Although neither cyclist had ever traveled such a long distance before, Mack noted, "It was far easier than we had anticipated."

Except for experiencing some difficulties with headwinds and mosquitoes, the two men ran into few problems, Mack said. He said they averaged 85-90 miles-per-day, after originally estimating that they would average about 50-60 miles-per-day.

Applebee's Restaurant in Rochester provided a car and driver to accompany the two cyclists on their trip, Mack said. The car carried extra equipment and supplies for Mack and Mangan.

In addition to raising money, the trek also raised community awareness of the center, Mack said. As a result of the trip and the media coverage, several groups have come forward to offer support for the Francis Center.

The McQuaid cross-country team, which conducts an annual 25-hour marathon to raise money for Rochester-area charities, will donate proceeds from this year's event on Aug. 2-3 to the center, Mack said.

— Lee Strong

A new monthly calendar will appear in the *Catholic Courier* on the last Thursday of each month.

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

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O my Jesus, I beg You on behalf of the whole Church: Grant it love and the light of Your Spirit, and give power to the works of priests so that hardened hearts might be brought to repentance and return to You, O Lord

Lord, give us holy priests; You yourself maintain them in holiness. O Divine and Great High Priest, may the power of Your mercy accompany them everywhere and protect them from the devil's traps and snares which are continually being set for the souls of priests. May the power of Your mercy, O Lord, shatter and bring to naught all that might tarnish the sanctity of priests, for You can do all things. AMEN
(Diary of Sister Faustina, 1052)

AUGUST, 1991

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Look for next month's MPRP CALENDAR in the *Catholic Courier*'s August 29th issue.

The Heart of CASA



Children placed in foster care sometimes need a special person to look out for their best interest. That person many times is a CASA Volunteer. CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is a non-profit organization whose volunteers are involved in advocating for the best interest of the child.

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By Rob Cull
Staff writer

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